

[147] **THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME B**

FIRST READING

Listen, Israel: You shall love the Lord with all your heart.

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

6:2-6

Moses said to the people:

“You, your children,
and all your descendants must respect the Lord.
And as long as you live,
you must obey all of his laws and commands that I am teaching you.
If you do this,
you will live a long time.

“People of Israel,
listen carefully and obey all these laws.
Your nation will grow strong,
and you will prosper in this land that is rich in milk
and honey.
This is what the Lord God of your ancestors has promised you.

“Listen, people of Israel!
Only the Lord is our God.
You must love the Lord with all your heart, soul, and strength.
Don’t forget anything that I am telling you today.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

18:1-2ab, 46

R. (2) I love you, Lord, my strength.

I love you, Lord God,
and you make me strong.
You are my mighty rock,
my fortress, my protector.

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

You are the living Lord!
I will praise you.

You are a mighty rock.
I will honor you
for keeping me safe.

R. I love you, Lord, my strength.

SECOND READING

Jesus is our high priest in heaven.

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

7:26

Brothers and sister:

Jesus is the high priest we need.
He is holy and innocent and faultless,
and not at all like us sinners.
Jesus is honored above all beings in heaven.

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

John 14:23

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

All who love me will keep my words,
And my Father will love them,
And we will come to them.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Love the Lord your God. Love your neighbor.

† A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark

12:28-31

One of the teachers of the Law of Moses came up
while Jesus and the Sadducees were arguing.
When he heard Jesus give a good answer, he asked him,
“What is the most important commandment?”

Jesus answered, “The most important one says:
‘People of Israel, you have only one Lord and God.

You must love him with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength.’
The second most important commandment says:
‘Love others as much as you love yourself.’
No other commandment is more important than these.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Thirty-First Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle B

Prayer:

Friend Jesus,

Thank you for showing us how to love. Help us to keep you always in our hearts and minds.

Help us to show your love to the world

In your name we pray. Amen

Readings:

Deuteronomy 6:2-6, Psalm 18:1-2ab, 46, Hebrews 7:26, Mark 12:28-31

Reflection/Discussion:

In today's Gospel, someone tries to trap Jesus. He asks Jesus what the greatest commandment is. You have heard of the 10 Commandments that God gave to Moses. Asking Jesus to pick just one is like asking your parents to pick their favorite child (when there is more than one kid in the family). The person who asked the question thought he could get Jesus in trouble. No matter which commandment Jesus picked, someone could argue that there was another more important one. Instead of getting trapped, Jesus throws them a curve ball. He creates two new commandments that include and summarize the 10 Commandments given to Moses. Jesus says, "You must love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength," and "Love others as much as you love yourself." Bam! Struck him out! Just like that, Jesus gets out of the trap and teaches us our most important and hardest lesson.

What do you want to be when you grow-up? How do you want to be remembered? (Give the kids time to answer) Many of us want to be a rich and famous like a sports star, a rock singer, a movie star, a king, a princess, or the president. There is nothing wrong with being rich and famous but remember a few weeks ago when we heard Jesus tell the rich young man that he need to give away his money. He wanted the man to use what he had to help others. Sadly, the man did not want to share so he could not enter God's Kingdom.

Albert Pujols, the St Louis Cardinals first baseman, has incredible baseball skills that have made him rich and famous. When asked by a reporter how he wanted to be remembered, Albert said that he did not want to be remembered as a great baseball player. He wants to be remembered as a good person who lived and showed his faith in God, who loved his family and who worked hard to make the world a better place. Albert is using his fame and money to help others. If you want to see some of the things that he and his family are doing go to www.pujolsfamilyfoundation.org.

Think again about how you want to be remembered. Have you ever heard people talking about other people? Pretend they are talking about you? What do you think other kids would say about you? What do you think other adults would say about you? (Give the kids time to answer). If we work hard to follow Jesus' two greatest commandments how do you think others will talk about us then?

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Activity:

St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians helps us to understand how we are live with God as the most important part in our life and how we are to love others as ourselves. He says:

“Love is patient; Love is kind. It is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful, it does not rejoice at wrong but delights in the truth.”

Using the attached work sheet, write your name into the blanks. Wouldn't it be great if this is how everyone saw you and remembered you?! (The kids may need some help understanding some of the words.)

LOVE

_____ is patient;

_____ is kind;

_____ is not jealous or boastful;

_____ is not arrogant or rude.

_____ does not insist on his/her own way;

_____ is not irritable or resentful;

_____ does not rejoice in others

problems but is happy when others do well.